

July 2, 2003

NOTICE OF INDEPENDENT REVIEW DECISION

RE: MDR Tracking #: M2-03-1114-01

___ has been certified by the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) as an independent review organization (IRO). ___ IRO Certificate Number is 5348. Texas Worker's Compensation Commission (TWCC) Rule §133.308 allows for a claimant or provider to request an independent review of a Carrier's adverse medical necessity determination. TWCC assigned the above-reference case to ___ for independent review in accordance with this Rule.

___ has performed an independent review of the proposed care to determine whether or not the adverse determination was appropriate. Relevant medical records, documentation provided by the parties referenced above and other documentation and written information submitted regarding this appeal was reviewed during the performance of this independent review.

This case was reviewed by a practicing chiropractor on the ___ external review panel. The ___ chiropractor reviewer signed a statement certifying that no known conflicts of interest exist between this chiropractor and any of the treating physicians or providers or any of the physicians or providers who reviewed this case for a determination prior to the referral to ___ for independent review. In addition, the ___ chiropractor reviewer certified that the review was performed without bias for or against any party in this case.

Clinical History

This case concerns a female who sustained a work related injury on ___. The patient reported that while at work, she had to sit with her head in an awkward position to hold the phone on her shoulder. The patient reported that she began to experience pain. A CT scan of the cervical spine 9/13/02 showed a 3mm central disc herniation at C5-6 abutting the spinal cord and a 1mm C6-7 disc bulge, 2mm bulge at C4-5 and 1mm bulge at C3-4. The diagnoses for this patient included carpal tunnel syndrome, C5-6 herniations and disc bulges at C4-5, C3-4 and C6-7.

Requested Services

Work Hardening program.

Decision

The Carrier's denial of authorization for the requested services is overturned.

Rationale/Basis for Decision

The ___ chiropractor reviewer noted that this case concerns a female who sustained a work related injury to her cervical spine on ___. The ___ chiropractor reviewer also noted that the diagnoses for this patient included carpal tunnel syndrome, C5-6 herniations and disc bulges at C4-5, C3-4 and C6-7. The ___ chiropractor reviewer explained that after review of the records provided, the work hardening program is medically necessary. Therefore, the ___ chiropractor

consultant concluded that the requested work hardening program is medically necessary to treat this patient's condition at this time.

This decision is deemed to be a TWCC Decision and Order.

YOUR RIGHT TO REQUEST A HEARING

Either party to this medical dispute may disagree with all or part of the decision and has a right to request a hearing.

If disputing a spinal surgery prospective decision a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **10 (ten)** days of your receipt of this decision. (20 Tex. Admin. Code 142.5(c)).

If disputing other prospective medical necessity (preauthorization) decisions a request for a hearing must be in writing and it must be received by the TWCC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **20 (twenty)** days of your receipt of this decision. (28 Tex. Admin. Code 148.3).

This decision is deemed received by you 5 (five) days after it was mailed. (28 Tex. Admin. Code 102.4(h) or 102.5(d)). A request for a hearing should be sent to:

Chief Clerk of Proceedings
Texas Workers' Compensation Commission
P.O. Box 40669
Austin, TX 78704-0012

A copy of this decision should be attached to the request.

The party appealing the decision shall deliver a copy of its written request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute. (Commission Rule 133.308(t)(2)).

Sincerely,

I hereby verify that a copy of this Independent Review Organization (IRO) Decision was sent to the carrier, the requestor and claimant via facsimile or U.S. Postal Service from the office of the IRO on this 2nd day of July 2003.